

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1           1. (Currently amended) A method for providing identification  
2 authentication, comprising:  
3           receiving an identification credential from an individual, including a  
4 biometric data, wherein the biometric data is stored on the identification  
5 credential, and wherein the identification credential is digitally signed with a  
6 private key;  
7           receiving a biometric sample from the individual;  
8           validating the digital signature using a corresponding public key;  
9           determining if a difference between the digitally signed biometric data and  
10 the biometric ~~data~~ sample from the individual is below a predetermined threshold;  
11 and  
12           providing the results of the determination to an interested party;  
13           whereby the identity of the individual ~~can be~~ is authenticated with  
14 reference to the identification credential alone, without having to ~~lookup~~ transmit  
15 information for the individual ~~in a database~~ over a network.

1           2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the  
2 predetermined threshold in accordance with instructions received from a user.

1           3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification  
2 credential ~~can include~~ includes at least one of a name, a unique ID, a citizenship,

3 an issue date, an expiration date, an identifier for an issuing authority, the  
4 biometric data, and a digital photo.

1 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric  
2 sample ~~can include~~ includes one of, or a combination of, a fingerprint, a signature,  
3 an iris scan, a facial scan, a voice pattern, a height, a weight, or a palm scan.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the digitally signed biometric  
2 data is contained in a magnetic stripe, a bar code, a smart card, a chip-card, or a  
3 non-volatile memory, such as flash memory, located on or within the  
4 identification credential.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital signature is  
2 provided by a central certification authority.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising granting access to  
2 resources based on the determination if the difference between the digitally signed  
3 biometric data and the biometric data from the individual is below the  
4 predetermined threshold.

1 8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a  
3 method for providing identification authentication, the method comprising:  
4 receiving an identification credential from an individual, including a  
5 biometric data, wherein the biometric data is stored on the identification  
6 credential, and wherein the identification credential is digitally signed with a  
7 private key;  
8 receiving a biometric sample from the individual;

9           validating the digital signature using a corresponding public key;  
10          determining if a difference between the digitally signed biometric data and  
11 | the biometric data sample from the individual is below a predetermined threshold;  
12          and  
13          providing the results of the determination to an interested party;  
14 |          whereby the identity of the individual ~~can be~~ is authenticated with  
15          reference to the identification credential alone, without having to ~~lookup~~ transmit  
16          information for the individual ~~in a database~~ over a network.

1           9. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2          the method further comprises adjusting the predetermined threshold in accordance  
3          with instructions received from a user.

1           10. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 |          8, wherein the identification credential ~~can include~~ includes at least one of a  
3          name, a unique ID, a citizenship, an issue date, an expiration date, an identifier for  
4          an issuing authority, the biometric data, and a digital photo.

1           11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 |          8, wherein the biometric sample ~~can include~~ includes one of, or a combination of,  
3          a fingerprint, a signature, an iris scan, a facial scan, a voice pattern, a height, a  
4          weight, or a palm scan.

1           12. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2          the digitally signed biometric data is contained in a magnetic stripe, a bar code, a  
3          smart card, a chip-card, or a non-volatile memory, such as flash memory, located  
4          on or within the identification credential.

1           13. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2 the digital signature is provided by a central certification authority.

1           14. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein  
2 the method further comprises granting access to resources based on the  
3 determination if the difference between the digitally signed biometric data and the  
4 biometric data from the individual is below the predetermined threshold.

1           15. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing identification  
2 authentication, comprising:

3           a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive an identification  
4 credential from an individual, including a biometric data, wherein the biometric  
5 data is stored on the identification credential, and wherein the identification  
6 credential is digitally signed with a private key;

7           a sampling mechanism that is configured to receive a biometric sample  
8 from the individual;

9           a validation mechanism that is configured to validate the digital signature  
10 using a corresponding public key;

11          a determination mechanism that is configured to determine if a difference  
12 between the digitally signed biometric data and the biometric ~~data~~ sample from  
13 the individual is below a predetermined threshold; and

14          a feedback mechanism that is configured to provide the results of the  
15 determination to an interested party;

16          whereby the identity of the individual ~~can be~~ is authenticated with  
17 reference to the identification credential alone, without having to ~~lookup~~ transmit  
18 information for the individual ~~in a database~~ over a network.

1           16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an adjustment  
2 mechanism configured to adjust the predetermined threshold in accordance with  
3 instructions received from a user.

1           17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the  
2 identification credential ~~can include~~ includes at least one of a name, a unique ID, a  
3 citizenship, an issue date, an expiration date, an identifier for an issuing authority,  
4 the biometric data, and a digital photo.

1           18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the biometric  
2 sample ~~can include~~ includes one of, or a combination of, a fingerprint, a signature,  
3 an iris scan, a facial scan, a voice pattern, a height, a weight, or a palm scan.

1           19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the digitally signed  
2 biometric data is contained in a magnetic stripe, a bar code, a smart card, a chip-  
3 card, or a non-volatile memory, such as flash memory, located on or within the  
4 identification credential.

1           20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the digital signature is  
2 provided by a central certification authority.

1           21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a security  
2 mechanism configured to grant access to resources based on the determination if  
3 the difference between the digitally signed biometric data and the biometric data  
4 from the individual is below the predetermined threshold.